

Clean specification:

United States Patent Application 10/ 595,118

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Wrapping for used chewing gum

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**Field of the Invention**

The invention applies to wrapping for used chewing gum and provides easy hygienic and ecological disposal of used chewing gum which improves the environment.

Description of Prior Art

Used chewing gum, thrown out in public places, for example on pavements, floors of public buildings, or on grass plots, contributes to the pollution of the environment and substantially diminishes the utility and aesthetic value of public places. Removal of used chewing gum is very problematic, because the gum usually firmly sticks to surfaces upon which they lie.

One known approach for removal of sticky chewing gum from pavements or floors is to use various machines. Typical machines use a dissolving agent or use local cooling to make mechanical releasing easier. High price and high operating costs are among the disadvantages of using such machines. Yet another disadvantage is that cleaning is performed only from time to time.

To try to prevent the above mentioned problems, keepers or owners of publicly open places often use hygienic devices such as small containers, in which an exchangeable insert is pushed in. One disadvantage of those devices is that their usage is limited to placement within buildings, such as banks, hotels, restaurants and the like. This approach does not solve the problem of discarding of used chewing gum in open areas, on pavements and grass plots.

Another known solution is a device that includes many pieces of wrapping paper. Each paper can be ripped off and used as a wrap for a piece of used chewing gum. Disadvantages of this

solution are complicated handling, the necessity of using both hands to open the wrapping paper, the need to use bare hands or putting paper on to consumer's lips, paper that may have already been contaminated by having been carried for a long time in one's pocket or in one's bag.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The aforesaid disadvantages are eliminated by the wrapping for used chewing gum according to the invention. The wrapping is formed by upper part and lower part of identical form and size. The two parts are applied together by their full surfaces. Both parts are provided with opposite situated vertical pre-scored lines. The parts are attached partially together along their margins, from one-third to one-half of their circumference.

An advantage of the wrapping for used chewing gum according to the invention is that it is hygienic, simple and practical to use. Only one hand is sufficient for discarding of chewing gum.

Opening the wrapping is performed by depressing with two fingers, and it does not require direct contact between the mouth and hands. It is also of an advantage that the wrapping can be carried in a pocket, purse and the like with already used chewing gum wrapped in the wrapping for subsequent throwing-out into a wastebasket without risk of the gum fouling the pocket, purse, etc. Yet another advantage is from an aesthetic point of view, when form of the wrapping remains kept, therefore it affects as no waste. The main advantage of this invention is that the wrapping allows subsequent ecological disposal of used chewing gum. Even if someone were to throw out the wrapped gum outside the wastebasket, the gum will not stick to the floor or to pavement. Instead, the wrapping can be easily cleaned up by sweeping.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the attached drawings there is a schematically shown exemplary embodiment according to the invention.

FIG. 1 is a plan view of an expanded wrapping form before assembly and bonding of parts;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of an assembled and bonded wrapping;

FIG. 3 is a side view; and

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the opened, assembled wrapping.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 1 shows a plan view of an expanded wrapping form before assembly or bonding of parts; the figure showing an upper part, 1, and a lower part, 2, centrally joined together with the upper part having two tabs, 4, extending from its margins and both parts showing vertical crease lines, 3. According to an exemplary embodiment, the wrapping for used chewing gum is formed by the upper part 1 and the lower part 2. Both parts 1, 2 are of circular shape with identical diameter 30 mm and are made from one piece of recycled paper, which had been folded in such a way as to put both parts 1, 2 together with their whole surfaces. Both parts 1, 2 are attached along their margins partially from one-third to one-half of their circumference and are glued and secured together by means of the hidden flaps 4. Both parts 1, 2 are provided with vertical pre-scored lines 3 and the pre-scored lines 3 help to open the wrapping, by depressing two sides of the wrapping with two fingers. Used chewing gum is then spit into the wrapping from the mouth without direct contact with the fingers. Consequently the wrapping is thrown into a wastebasket.

Alternatively, for more aesthetic reason, the circular wrapping can be replaced by a square or rectangular one, alternatively by a wrapping with rounded edges, and furthermore a cylindrical, elliptical, floral or of other shapes. The paper wrapping can be replaced by a wrapping of other material and the parts 1, 2 can be circumferentially bonded by stitching, by a lock or by welding. For easy carrying of the wrapping in a pocket or purse it is advantageous that the wrapping be a coin-sized wrapping.

The wrapping according to the invention can be used for discharging of used chewing gums of all types. It can be attached directly when chewing gum is sold or can be available in restaurants, cultural centers and other places.